

Early Migration of Rainbow Bird.—On September 5, 1954, it came under my notice that the Rainbow Bird (*Merops ornatus*) was present in the Bibra Lake district six miles from Fremantle. As this species is a late visitor to the Swan River District, I took particular note of its arrival. On September 5 only one bird was observed in the locality, but one week later four birds were observed.

Usually birds arrive in this district during the first week of October and commence nesting in the last week of the same month.

—W. C. FORD, Fremantle.

Scarlet and Red-capped Robins nesting at Mundijong.—The Scarlet (*Petroeca multicolor*) and Red-capped Robins (*P. goodenovii*) are both quite common in the South-west. Generally speaking, however, the Red-capped species favours the inland districts east of the Darling Range, and the Scarlet Robin is the common form of the forest areas and the Swan coastal plain. An isolated colony of Red-capped Robins on Rottnest Island indicates that the bird was perhaps more widely established along the coastal fringe in earlier times.

In view of the distribution just cited, I was interested to find on December 25, 1954, evidence of both species nesting at Mundijong. A male Red-capped Robin was observed feeding one young bird and a few yards away a pair of Scarlet Robins were noted feeding two offspring. In both instances the young were well able to fly. The white frontal mark on the young Scarlet Robins was very prominent and distinguished them from the young of the Red-capped.

—C. F. H. JENKINS, Department of Agriculture, Perth.

The Quenda in the Riverton Area.—On several occasions between March and May, 1953, whilst clearing swamps by rotary hoeing in Riverton, I noticed what I at first thought were rabbits. It was not until the end of April that the matter was settled with the capture of a live Quenda (*Isoodon obcsulus*), which was handed over to the Department of Zoology of the University. On at least four occasions in different swamps I had noticed the scurrying brown figures, but being used to rabbits I wasn't unduly interested until a mangled body appeared in the hoe debris and which was, as I afterwards learnt, a Quenda. At least six of these animals were sighted in the four swamps. Local residents state that they have noticed them over the past three or four years since building began in the district.

The particular swamps I refer to are located about 1½ miles south-west of the Riverton Bridge over the Canning River, and in the vicinity of Bulls Creek. They are paperbark and *Leptospermum* swamps, full of water in winter and drying out in summer. The Quenda seemed to be rather partial to swordgrass (*Lepidosperma longitudinale*) areas.

—R. P. McMILLAN, Cannington.